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Assistant Secretary John Berry
Care of Document Management Unit
Department of Interior
1849 C St., NW Mail Stop 7229
Wash., D.C. 20240

Dear Sir:

Just recently you visited Moloka'I, Hi. I had not the opportunity to voice my thoughts. If it is not too late, enclosed in this letter are my personal expressions.

I consider myself fortunate despite the many hardships. I'm proud to be an American citizen; yet, a Hawaiian at heart...fifty percent! I attended an elementary school situated on HHL lands on the Big Island; yet, never lived on HHL. After the great tidal wave disaster, 1946, our family of six moved to a house lot/district (not on HHL), and resided with my grandmother who cared for three other family members. Living together wasn't easy, but we managed. My dad was the sole supporter and mom was the homemaker

Meanwhile, I transferred to another school...adaptations and adjustments had to be made. Competition was keen, so I was forced to keep up/maintain academically and socially. In high school, there was no Hawaiian language taught, therefore I enrolled in the Spanish language which I thoroughly enjoyed and performed remarkably well. After graduation, I attended UH Hilo because my parents couldn't afford to send me to a mainland college. During my college years, I worked part-time at "odd-&-end" jobs to supplement my dad's earnings. The scholarships which I received were from the Caucasians. In the year 1959, year of statehood, I graduated from UH Manoa with a B.Ed. and a 5th year professional diploma. Since then, I have **always worked** and have paid both state and federal taxes. My great-grandmother and father wisely taught me, "Not to be afraid of work; be afraid of laziness".

The same adage is taught to my four biological children as well as other children. Currently, one son is a civil engineer, another a fire operator; one daughter who has one child works full time at O.A.S.I.S. (Dep't. of Ed.); yet, is a part-time student working toward a doctorate and the last daughter is a high school junior.

I'm a retiree who served the public schools in Hawai'I for thirty-seven years as a Spanish, Social Studies, Reading teacher, innovator and a team leader. Presently, I substitute at various schools, volunteer in community events, and serve my church. From time to time, I attend seminars, conferences, and classes, especially in the Hawaiian language and arts.

Now then, there are many Hawaiians like me (50% Hawaiian, taxpayers, positive contributors to society, never been on welfare etc.) who do not "own" neither live on HHL. Why? How Come?

1. The waiting list is **too long**
2. The duration of time to obtain land takes **too long**
3. The acreage of land which is distributed is **too large**. For non-farmers, divide the lands into smaller portions. Put more Hawaiians on one acre parcels; depending on the need, perhaps two acre parcels at the most. Yet, not having the Hawaiian community to be cluttered and crowded like oriental/Asiatic lifestyle.

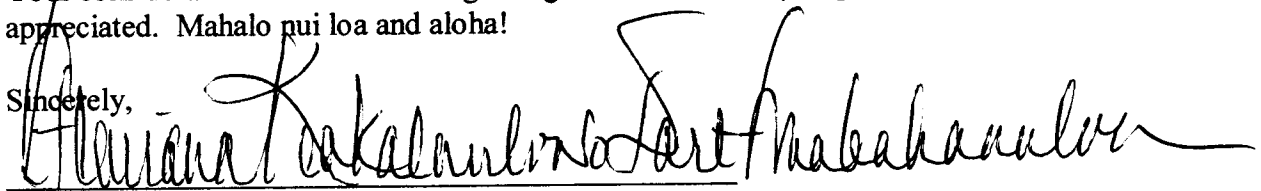
Before we lose or downsize our land base to OUTSIDERS (illegal aliens, immigrants, rich/greedy entrepreneurs) find a process PRONTO to hasten and to improve situations whereby more Hawaiians can find roots, ownership, pride, and stability in possessing their own house lot/homestead whether it's an acre or two.

I'm afraid that if Hawaiians lose their land base from acres to inches, Hawaiians will be threatened to the diversity and tolerance that over the years had evolved among the racial minorities and old Hawaiians, and will gradually lose its traditions, and the aloha spirit.

THE NEED IS NOW!

Your consideration and attention regarding this matter is very important and greatly appreciated. Mahalo nui loa and aloha!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Flaviana Keakalaulono Dart-Makahalanaloa', written in dark ink.

Flaviana Keakalaulono Dart-Makahalanaloa